

# Stewardship Notes

Indiana Division of Forestry



## Cutting Firewood on State Forests

Indiana's state forests are managed under a concept of multiple use. This policy allows us to obtain benefits from all the things a forest can provide: timber production, recreation, wildlife habitat, watershed protection, and aesthetic beauty.

An important tool in timber management is the periodic harvest of mature and over-mature trees. These trees are selected and marked by professional foresters employed by the state. A sale date is advertised, and sealed bids are accepted from licensed timber buyers for the trees to be sold.

Normally, the tops of the trees are left in the woods after the sawlogs are removed; these tops may be utilized for firewood. No standing trees, either alive or dead, may be taken. Forest office personnel can issue firewood-cutting permits, which cost \$3 per pickup truck load. A permittee may cut up to 10 pickup truck loads per year. The forest property manager has discretion as to when and where firewood cutting is allowed.

Contact the forest office where you wish to cut firewood to be sure there is an area open. Properties that allow firewood cutting are:

State Forest	Phone Number
Clark State Forest	812-294-4306
Ferdinand State Forest	812-367-1524
Greene-Sullivan State Forest	812-648-2810
Jackson-Washington State Forest	812-358-2160
Martin State Forest	812-247-3491
Morgan-Monroe State Forest	765-342-4026
Owen-Putnam State Forest	812-829-2462
Yellowwood State Forest	812-988-7945
Harrison-Wyandotte State Forest	812-738-8232

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## **Important Things to Remember About Cutting Firewood**

1. Cutting firewood is strenuous work, and a chainsaw is one of the most dangerous tools you will ever use. Wear a hard hat, chainsaw chaps and safety goggles.
2. Never cut wood alone.
3. Always have a first aid kit handy.
4. Be alert for limbs and branches in a bind that can snap free and injure you. Even though treetops are lying on the ground, they are still dangerous. Look the situation over carefully before cutting.
5. Cut wood a year ahead of time to allow it to season properly.
6. Estimate how much a load of wood will cost, including all equipment and expenses. You may find it can be purchased or cut closer to home from a private source for less cost.
7. The areas designated for firewood cutting are not always easily accessible. If you get stuck, it is your responsibility to get your vehicle out.
8. Remember state forests are the only state-owned properties with firewood cutting programs.
9. Obtain your permit before cutting, and keep your permit with you.
10. Remember; always contact the state forest where you plan to cut ahead of time to make sure cutting areas will be open.